

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00
DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 EB-07
COME-00 TRSE-00 OMB-01 AID-05 SSM-03 /068 W
-----010641Z 017801 /20

R 311430Z MAY 77

FM AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9027
INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY DOHA
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY MANAMA
AMEMBASSY MUSCAT
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAID, PDEV, IS, JO, PLO, KU, UAE

SUBJECT: FREIJ REPORTS ON HIS FUND-RAISING TOUR

REF: JERUSALEM 779

1. DURING MAY 30 DISCUSSION WITH BETHLEHEM MAYOR FREIJ, HE GAVE US CONSIDERABLE DETAIL ON HIS RECENT FUND-RAISING TOUR IN GULF AREA. HE CONFIRMED THAT ABU DHABI, AS SITER-CITY TO BETHLEHEM, HAD AGREED TO CONSIDER 9 MUNICIPAL PROJECTS WORTH \$10 MILLION OVER 5 YEAR PERIOD. FIRST \$600,000 HAS ALREADY BEEN BANKED IN AMMAN AND WILL BE USED TO HELP WITH THREE MUNICIPAL PROJECTS - A MARKET, A SLAUGHTER HOUSE, AND A RESERVOIR.

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2. FREIJ TOLD US THAT HE WENT TO ABU DHABI WITH LIST OF PROJECTS ALL OF WHICH HAD BEEN APPROVED BY ISRAELI AUTHORITIES AND WERE IN FACT, SUBMITTED PREVIOUSLY TO MILGOV WITH REQUEST FOR FUNDING ASSISTANCE. CONSEQUENTLY FREIJ IS COMPLETELY CONFIDENT THAT THE ISRAELIS WILL LET THE ARAB STATE'S MONEY COME IN. FREIJ INTENDS TO USE THE ABU DHABI MONEY FOR 40 PER CENT OF CAPITAL COSTS OF PROJECTS WITH REMAINING 60 PER CENT

COMING FROM GOI IN LOANS AND GRANTS. HE SAID THAT BETHLEHEM BUDGET IN 1976 WAS ABOUT \$450,000 ALL OF WHICH WAS NEEDED FOR OPERATING EXPENSES.

3. ACCORDING TO FREIJ, THE ISRAELIS CAN STILL CONTROL THE SITUATION BY NOT APPROVING PROJECTS EVEN AFTER THEY HAVE BEEN FUNDED. THEN, MAYORS COULD STILL SPEND SOME MONEY SURREPTITIOUSLY, BUT NOT CONSTRUCTIVELY. ALSO, THE ISRAELIS CAN FORBID TRIPS BY MAYORS ABROAD. (COMMENT: FREIJ BELIEVES THAT A PERSONAL APPEARANCE AND APPEAL BY MAYORS TO DONOR STATES IS INDISPENSIBLE IN ORDER TO OBTAIN FUNDS.) THIS RESTRICTION FREIJ THINKS IS LIKELY. HE HIMSELF HAS BEEN DENIED PERMISSION TO ATTEND THE CONFERENCE OF ARAB CITIES IN MOROCCO NEXT WEEK.

4. THE JORDANIANS WERE ANGERED BY THE MAYORS' TRIPS TO ARAB STATES, ACCORDING TO FREIJ, NOT BECAUSE THEY DISAPPROVED OF THE SOURCE OF FUNDS, BUT BECAUSE IT WAS ALL BEING DONE WITHOUT ANY COORDINATION WITH GOJ. PM BADRAN, WHOM FREIJ SAW WAS REPORTEDLY, FURIOUS. HOWEVER, FREIJ GAVE NO INDICATION THAT HE THOUGHT THE GOJ WAS LIKELY TO INTERFERE.

5. FREIJ'S TRIP TOOK 23 DAYS, MOST OF TIME SPENT IN WAITING TO SEE ABU DHABI'S SHEIKH ZAYD AND FOREIGN MINISTER. HE BLAMED DELAYS ON LACK OF PLANNING BY THOSE RESPONSIBLE FOR DOING LIAISON WITH ABU DHABI OFFICIALS, I.E. PLO. ACCORDING TO FREIJ, PLO ROLE IN SISTER-CITY PROGRAM HAS BEEN TO GET AGREEMENT BY TOP OFFICIALS OF ARAB DONOR STATES TO TAKE ON ONE OR MORE WEST BANK CITIES. ONCE AGREEMENT OBTAINED PLO DID NO FURTHER STAFF WORK SO THAT ACCORDING TO FREIJ, LOCAL OFFICIALS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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IN ABU DHABI KNEW NOTHING ABOUT SISTER-CITY PROGRAM OR DESIGNATION OF BETHLEHME (AND AL-BIRA). FREIJ, TRUE TO FORM, WAS SCATHING IN HIS DEPRECATATIONS OF PLO OFFICIALS - HE CALLED THEM "CARDIN SUIT REVOLUTIONARIES" WHO ARE MORE CONCERNED WITH LIVING THE GOOD LIFE SUBSIDIZED BY ARAB OIL MONEY THAN WITH THE PROBLEMS AND NEEDS OF THOSE LIVING UNDER OCCUPATION. NEWLIN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MAYOR, ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 31-May-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977JERUSA00787
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770194-0624
Format: TEL
From: JERUSALEM
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t1977053/aaaaacll.tel
Line Count: 104
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 7ad3428c-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 JERUSALEM 779
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 03-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2415723
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: FREIJ REPORTS ON HIS FUND-RAISING TOUR
TAGS: EAID, PDEV, IS, JO, KU, TC, PLO, (FREIJ)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/7ad3428c-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009